



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: 15-10

Effective Date: Immediately

Issuance Date: October 30, 2014

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM:  ROSEMARY MALONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: EARNED INCOME DISREGARD (EID) PROJECT

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Background:

Family Investment is piloting an Enhanced Earned Income Disregard with a limited number of TCA customers. This pilot is mandated by legislation passed by the 2013 General Assembly and will help determine the effectiveness of disregarding more customer earned income for short periods of time while the customer is transitioning from the TCA caseload into the workforce. The Glen Burnie office of the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services is participating as the pilot office. Should a customer receiving the enhanced earned income disregard move outside the jurisdiction of the Glen Burnie office, we ask that the receiving office notify FIA Policy, Research and Training immediately.

All pilot case address change information should be sent to Policy, Research and Training, Policy Analyst, Michelle Green at mgreen@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-767-7944. The new jurisdiction is not to take any action on the case.

Summary

On October 1, 2014 the Earned Income Disregard pilot began recruiting TCA customers who have not received cash assistance in the prior six months. Eligible TCA households will be notified of their opportunity to participate in the pilot. The first 100 customers to find jobs averaging 25 hours per week, or more, will be placed in the Treatment group and compared against other eligible customers who are not receiving the enhanced earned income disregard. Households in the EID pilot will be coded as "ED" in the Special Circumstances field on the CARES ADDR screen.

- For the first three months, the treatment group families will receive a 100 percent disregard of their earnings (for TCA only).

- For months four through nine, the families receive a 60 percent disregard of their earnings.
- Beginning in month ten, the disregard reverts to the normal 40 percent.

The full amount of the income is considered when determining income eligibility for other programs including Food Supplement benefits.

All eligible pilot cases will remain in Glen Burnie until the customer obtains employment averaging 25 hours or more per week. Once the adult in the household is employed, the case will be transferred to **district office (DO) 006** which is being used by Policy, Research and Training. When the disregard is reduced to 40 percent and the family continues to receive TCA, the case will be transferred back to the appropriate local department.

All TCA calculations are completed off-line and the information is entered on the CARES UINC screen for the 60 percent disregard. All earned income is added to the case for FSP.

Local Department Responsibilities

Unless a customer moves, only the Anne Arundel County DSS, Glen Burnie office, or designated central staff are processing EID cases. If a customer whose CARES file designates them as part of the EID pilot applies for assistance in any office other than Glen Burnie, please contact Policy, Research and Training staff Michelle Green at mgreen@maryland.gov or, 410-767-7944.

Inquiries:

Please direct questions regarding the EID project to Michelle Green at 410-767-7944 or mgreen@maryland.gov. Please direct other TCA questions to Fatmata Khella at 410-767-7956 or fatmata.khella@maryland.gov.

cc:	DHR Executive Staff Policy, Research and Training Staff DHR Help Desk	FIA Management Staff Constituent Services
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